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Congress of the United States

Committee on Natural Resources
Ranking Member, Energy and
Minerals Subcommittee

Committee on Education and
the Workforce

Founder and Co-Chair,
Research & Development Caucus

October 19, 2012

The Honorable L. Charles McCullough, III
Inspector General of the United States Intelligence Community
Office of the Director of National Intelligence
Washington, DC 20511

Dear Inspector General McCullough,

As you are aware, in July 2012 the McClatchy News Service ran a series of articles on alleged abuses of the polygraph process by the National Reconnaissance Office (NRO). In the articles, NRO officials are accused of "establishing a system that tracks the number of personal confessions, which then are used in polygraphers' annual performance reviews; summoning employees and job applicants for multiple polygraph tests to ask about a wide array of personal behavior; and altering results of the tests in what some polygraphers say is an effort to justify more probing of employees' and applicants' private lives."

I was appalled to read that in one case, a woman underwent multiple polygraphs until she disclosed details about how she had been sexually molested by a male relative. The accounts of the alleged treatment of federal employees and contractors and such voyeuristic interrogation bring to mind tactics employed by our former Soviet enemies on their own populations. I ask that you investigate 1) whether there is any truth in these reports of polygraph abuse at NRO, 2) whether any other IC elements are using such tactics, 3) whether any polygraphers have engaged in actions in violation of any applicable laws and regulations, 4) whether the use of such tactics was ordered by any IC manager, 5) and whether polygraphers were receiving rewards, accelerated promotions or other incentives to force non-counterintelligence related information from polygraph subjects.

I would appreciate your prompt attention to this matter. Should you have any questions about this request, please contact Patrick Eddington on my staff at 202-225-5801 or via email at Patrick.Eddington@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,

RUSH HOLT
Member of Congress